



Asia has experienced significant prosperity over the past decades, marked by economic growth and substantial poverty reduction. The region has emerged as a global exporter of goods, achieved considerable self-sufficiency in food production, and become a major supplier of agricultural commodities such as rice, cassava, coffee, palm oil, and rubber.

However, this growth has come at a high environmental cost. Widespread deforestation, water pollution, elevated carbon emissions, and extensive use of pesticides and chemical fertilisers have degraded ecosystems. As a result, rural landscapes in Asia are increasingly vulnerable to climate change, including soil erosion, declining soil health, floods, and droughts, all of which diminish productivity and disrupt vital ecosystem services.

These challenges disproportionately affect marginalised groups, particularly remote indigenous communities, who are becoming more vulnerable as environmental degradation intensifies.

To address this, SNV adopts a multi-pronged response that includes a climate-resilient landscape approach. This approach seeks to balance competing land-use objectives, promote synergies across sectors, and adapt to the complexities of a changing climate at landscape level. By engaging at the landscape level, SNV facilitates cross-project and cross-sector collaboration, driving system-wide transformation. Furthermore, by advocating for inclusive land use plans and policies supported by climate finance, SNV aims to enhance the resilience of vulnerable populations.

The challenge

Growing populations, changing consumption patterns, intensified land use, and the reduction of natural areas are putting significant pressure on Asia's natural resources. Climate change compounds these issues by placing additional stress on already vulnerable ecosystems. The interconnectedness of various sectors means that efforts to improve conditions in one area can inadvertently lead to negative consequences elsewhere. For instance, past increases in agricultural productivity have driven up water and energy use and incentivised deforestation as opportunity costs have risen.

Addressing these interlinked challenges requires planning and implementing solutions at the landscape level. This level is critical for tackling the governance, market, and policy failures that drive deforestation, ecosystem degradation, and the marginalisation of rural people, especially women. Working at the landscape level provides a deeper understanding of the impacts of climate change, including how landscapes and their users respond to extreme weather. This understanding enables the formulation of inclusive and sustainable natural resource management plans that consider ecological, economic, and social interactions within landscapes.

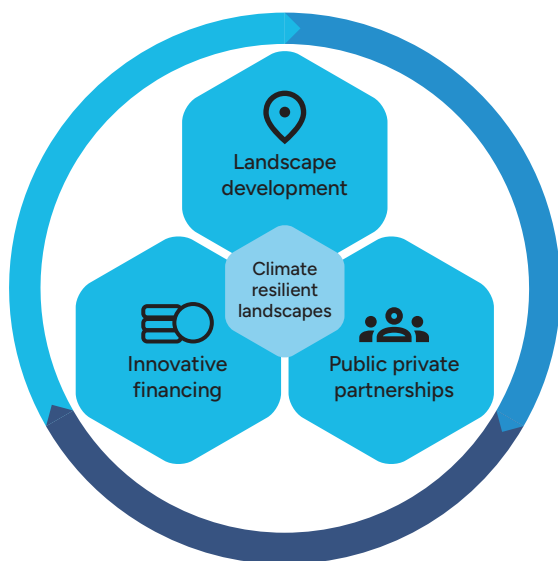


Figure 1: Resilient landscapes

Our approach

SNV supports the resilience of livelihoods and enhances the conservation of ecosystems through three main components:

Landscape development. We collaborate with various stakeholders to create inclusive, gender- and conflict-sensitive frameworks and strategies for low-emission, climate-resilient landscape development, including:

- conducting integrated landscape analysis;
- offering climate adaptation advisory services;
- supporting landscape planning processes;
- developing targeted landscape management plans and tools;
- effectively managing public land-use policies;
- building capacity for governments, businesses, and producers;
- integrating gender equality and social inclusion into project design and implementation; and
- strengthening ecosystem services.

Innovative financing. We support efforts to access innovative financing and engage with companies to unlock private investments for implementing and scaling resilient landscapes, including:

- supporting partners to access climate and biodiversity finance;
- leveraging private investments to scale climate resilience for vulnerable groups;
- piloting innovative finance models and scaling up best practices;
- developing and sharing knowledge on climate finance.

Public-private partnerships. We facilitate inclusive partnerships to coordinate action, align goals, and optimise trade-offs by involving a wide range of stakeholders in the planning process. This includes:

- convening multi-stakeholder and industry platforms;
- developing innovative business cases at the landscape scale;
- facilitating sustainable livestock and agriculture markets; and
- ensuring platforms for concerted forest and land management and conflict resolution.

SNV uses a climate-resilient landscape approach to identify common solutions across the agriculture, livestock, forestry and environment sectors.

Partnering for impact, examples of our work

The following projects, implemented by SNV and its partners and guided by a landscape approach, contribute positive outcomes for communities and nature:

DUTCH FUND FOR CLIMATE AND DEVELOPMENT (DFCD) | Global | Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs EUR 200 million | 2019-2027

DFCD steers capital towards projects that strengthen the climate resilience of vulnerable populations and ecosystems across several countries. SNV identifies and supports businesses in de-risking and preparing for investment focused on impact at landscape scale. Projected impacts of the fund include a reduction of 5 million tCO₂e p.a. of GHG emissions, 150.000 ha. of forest and wetland sustainably managed, and €2 billion of private finance investment mobilised. of private finance investment mobilised.

BIODIVERSE LANDSCAPES FUND (BLF) – LOWER MEKONG | Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam | UK International Development | EUR 14.3 million | 2023 - 2030

The BLF-Lower Mekong is a UK government programme designed to protect biodiversity, reduce poverty, and address climate change through a landscape approach across three transboundary landscapes in the Annamite mountain range. It tackles challenges such as the socio-economic marginalisation of indigenous communities, deforestation, biodiversity loss, and climate change. The programme supports the co-management of protected areas, promotes eco-tourism, and enhances sustainable agricultural practices and livelihoods.

SNV's focus is on deforestation-free agriculture, developing value chains for non-timber forest products, and supporting Indigenous Peoples' rights, with a strong emphasis on gender equity, social inclusion, and free, prior, and informed consent in natural resource management. The BLF aims to impact over 1 million hectares of highly biodiverse landscapes and improve the well-being and climate resilience of over 15,000 indigenous people and local communities.

VIET NAM NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS FOR ADAPTATION IN AGRICULTURE THROUGH PRIVATE SECTOR TRANSFORMATION (VN-ADAPT) | Vietnam | International Climate Initiative (IKI) | EUR 14.6 million | 2023-2028

SNV leads a consortium focused on enhancing the capacity of public and private sectors to implement nature-based solutions. The project strengthens partnerships among stakeholders to mobilise private sector innovation and investment for the wide-scale adoption of nature-based solutions in agriculture,

particularly in upland agroforestry systems within the Mekong Delta and Central Highlands.

VN-ADAPT targets some of Vietnam's largest and most vulnerable agricultural landscapes, specifically in these regions. The project aims to enhance farmers' resilience to climate risks and trends in key agricultural sectors, reduce emissions, increase carbon sequestration in food production systems, and improve biodiversity conservation and restoration across production landscapes. By mobilising private sector innovation and investment, the project will also mitigate the climate vulnerability of smallholder farmers and promote investment in nature-based agriculture and land use.

COFFEE AGROFORESTRY AND FOREST ENHANCEMENT FOR REDD+ (CAFÉ-REDD) | Vietnam | International Climate Initiative (IKI) | EUR 2.9 million | 2018-2024

Since 2018, CAFÉ REDD has transformed agricultural markets in Vietnam's Central Highlands to reduce the drivers of deforestation and enhance the economic and climatic resilience of farmers and ecosystems. Key activities include strengthening public sector capacity and coordination between State Forest Management Boards and local communities, engaging the private sector to invest in monitoring and traceability systems, and supporting farming households to adopt sustainable farming practices such as agroforestry, crop diversification, forest restoration, access to finance, and investments to revitalise their farms.

By 2024, the project had enabled 3,355 farmers to practice sustainable coffee production and conservation, while assisting the government in protecting 111,493



hectares of forest land and in landscape planning for a key biodiversity area in the Central Highlands. Additionally, the project facilitated digital solutions for sustainable and transparent coffee production, including the introduction of traceability and monitoring systems.

INTEGRATED LAND AND SEA LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT SOLUTION IN INDONESIA (SOLUSI) | Indonesia International Climate Initiative (IKI) | EUR 20 million | 2024-2028

The SOLUSI project aims to mitigate land and seascape degradation in Indonesia, increasing ecosystem resilience and promoting climate-resilient livelihoods (CRL). It involves national, sub-national, and local stakeholders improving spatial and development planning by adopting green and blue economy principles, including the management of natural ecosystems, sustainable business models, ecotourism and access to sustainable finance and supply chain partnerships. These efforts will support sustainable management of aquatic systems, agricultural and agroforestry lands in Central Java, the Bangka-Belitung Islands, and Central Sulawesi.

The project is implemented by GIZ, ICRAF, SNV Indonesia, and KEHATI, targeting 8,800 smallholder farmers (SHFs), at least 50% of whom are female. SNV Indonesia will facilitate the adoption of CRL in Land and Seascape (LaS) through three targeted Public-Private Community Partnerships (PPCP) and contribute to multi-stakeholder partnerships and innovative financing mechanisms.

MANGROVES AND MARKETS: SCALING UP ECOSYSTEM-BASED ADAPTATION IN THE MEKONG DELTA (MAM) | Vietnam | Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) | EUR 1.5 million | 2012-2020

The MAM project worked to protect the vulnerable coastal region of the Mekong Delta from climate impacts by supporting mangrove restoration and protection, as well as reducing carbon emissions through more sustainable and resilient shrimp farming practices. Over 5,000 shrimp farmers were trained in integrated mangrove-shrimp farming techniques. The project enhanced the resilience of more than 22,000 people and is recognised worldwide as a leading example of engaging the private sector in delivering climate adaptation.

GREEN ANNAMITES PROJECT | USAID | EUR 24 million | 2017-2019

SNV managed and implemented a flexible technical assistance facility ('indefinite quantity subcontract') to support the delivery of USAID's Green Annamites project. This project facilitated Vietnam's transition to climate-smart, low-emission, and resilient practices in priority forested and biodiverse provinces.

To achieve its objectives, the USAID Green Annamites Project combined the development of appropriate economic incentives, improved livelihoods, value chain development, direct assistance to vulnerable farmers, and the development of alternative public and private resources, all within a framework of gender and social inclusion.

SNV is a global development partner, deeply rooted in the countries where we work. We are driven by a vision of a better world: A world where across every society all people live with dignity and have equitable opportunities to thrive sustainably. To make this vision a reality, we need transformations in vital agri-food, energy, and water systems. SNV contributes by strengthening capacities and catalysing partnerships in these sectors. We help strengthen institutions and effective governance, reduce gender inequalities and barriers to social inclusion, and enable adaptation and mitigation to the climate and biodiversity crises.

Building on 60 years of experience we support our partners with our technical and process expertise and methodological rigour. We do this in more than 20 countries in Africa and Asia with a team of approximately 1,600 colleagues. By being adaptable and tailoring our approaches to these different contexts, we can contribute to impact at scale, helping to realise more equitable lives for all.

For more information contact:
agri-food@snv.org

snv.org/sector/agri-food



**Impact
that matters**